(d) if so, whether any appropriation has been made to the Pension Fund in the past?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The outgo on account of pensionary charges has been assessed at Rs. 7900 cr. in the Budget Estimates for 2006-07 and an equivalent amount has been provided in the Railway Pension Fund to meet this liability.

(c) and (d) An actuarial assessment study was awarded by Railways and the report submitted by the actuary is under examination. At present, it is seen that the appropriation to Railway Pension Fund is sufficiently adequate to meet with pensionary liabilities on a year-to-year basis.

Package for rail connectivity in North-East Region

1302. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any special package towards rail connectivity in respect of North-East Region;

(b) if so, the details of the concept in this direction; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) There is no special package as such. However, a number of projects are in progress in the North East Region having a throwforward of over Rs. 6000 crore as on 0.1.04.2006. As per the policy, 10% of budgetary support is being allocated in the North East Region. Further, three projects in the region have been declared as National projects for which part funds are being provided as an additionality to normal Railways Plan.

North Bengal-Sikkim Rail Line

1303. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while the proposal for rail-lines for North Bengal into Sikkim has been pending for years together, China is going